

Foster Care TO ADULthood IN IOWA

FFY 2018 Report



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The Iowa Department of Human Rights, NYTD Coordinator, under contract with DHS, collected NYTD data and partnered with other child serving agencies to enhance the relevant transition data provided in this report.

Partners include Iowa Aftercare Services Program, who provided data from their Annual Report; Achieving Maximum Potential (AMP), who provided data from their year end report; and the Iowa College Student Aid Commission (Iowa College Aid), who provided data on their Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program.

Final edits and reviews were completed by the Department of Human Rights and the Department of Human Services. Both extend their appreciation to all coordinating efforts for this report.

Finally, a special thanks is extended to the youth who answered the NYTD questions, and all youth who utilize the many services Iowa offers. Without their contributions, this report would not be possible.

Content

The purpose of this report is to continue to highlight areas where child serving agencies and service providers can continue effective transition work, while also pointing to service deficits which can be developed or enhanced in coming years.

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Background

CHAFEE FOSTER CARE PROGRAM FOR SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD

Public Law 106-169 established the Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (formerly the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program) at section 477 of the Social Security Act, providing States with flexible funding to carry out programs that assist youth age 14 or older in making the transition from Foster Care to self-sufficiency. The law also required the federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to develop a data collection system to track the independent living services States' provide to youth, and develop outcome measures that may be used to assess States' performance in operating their independent living programs. The law requires ACF to impose a penalty between one and five percent of the State's annual allotment on any State that fails to comply with the reporting requirements.

To meet the law's mandate, ACF published a proposed rule in the Federal Register on July 14, 2006 and a final rule on February 26, 2008. The regulation established the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) and required that States engage in two data collection activities. First, States are to collect information on each youth who receives independent living services paid for or provided by the State agency. Second, States are to collect demographic and outcomes information on certain youth in Foster Care whom the State will follow over time to collect additional outcome information.

Pursuant to the regulation, the Iowa Department of Human Services began collecting data for NYTD on October 1, 2010 and reports data to ACF semi-annually. The first submission of data to the ACF was May 15, 2011. The most recent submission was November 15, 2018. Iowa has been in full compliance with NYTD reporting requirements since implementation. Federal compliance requires a response rate of 80% for the Baseline (age 17) population, and 60% for the Follow-Up (age 19 and 21) populations.

DHS and other state child welfare agencies are required to collect outcome data and information describing services provided to youth in Iowa Foster Care or who have exited. DHS case managers and juvenile court officers report quarterly Life Skills services provided to youth age 14 and older, when the service is paid for or provided by DHS. Then, to measure the outcomes of youth who were formerly in Foster Care, Iowa DHS contracts out survey data collection. Since 2016, DHS has completed these activities, and in addition to surveying youth, also watched trends and created reports. Youth are surveyed at age 17 (in cohorts every three years), then 25% of those surveyed are contacted again when they are age 19 and 21.

The survey was administered to the second baseline cohort of Foster Care youth who reached age 17 in federal fiscal year 2014 (FFY 2014). The follow-up populations for that baseline cohort received follow-up surveys as they reached age 19 (FFY 2016) and 21 (FFY 2018). This report represents the full NYTD cohort of individuals transitioning from age 17 through age 21. Reports on the interim NYTD populations can be found on Iowa NYTD's website¹.

The purpose of this report is two-fold. One, the following highlights compare the outcomes reported by youth in the second NYTD cohort at ages 17, 19 and 21. Additional Foster Care demographic information and relevant service information has been provided to complement the NYTD data. This data is provided from other Chafee funded programs such as Iowa Aftercare Services Network (IASN); Achieving Maximum Potential (AMP); and the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program.

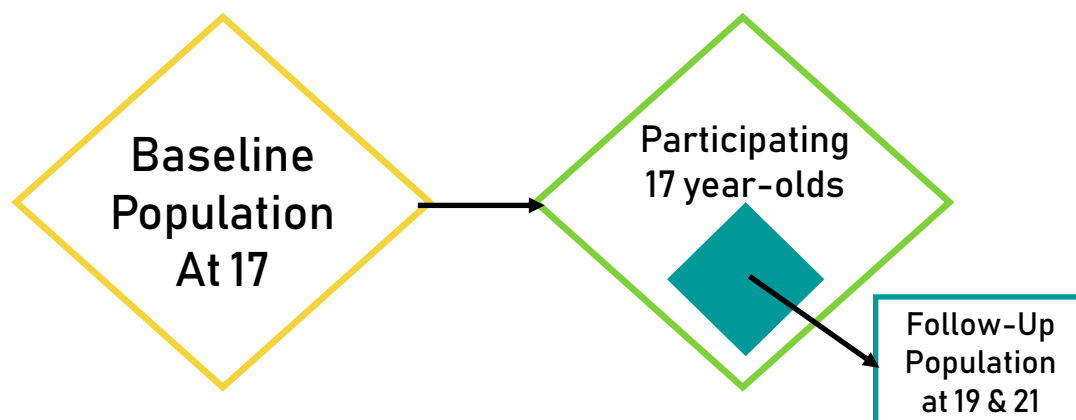
Secondly, Iowa DHR hopes to continue to highlight areas where child serving agencies and service providers can continue effective transition work, while also pointing to service deficits which can be developed or enhanced in coming years. With a full cohort of data collection completed for Iowa NYTD, Iowa youth and advocates can better understand the experiences of young people currently and formerly in Foster Care as they age and transition into adulthood.

Definitions

When a definition is used in this report, it will be capitalized to alert the reader a definition is available in this section.

Baseline Population refers to youth in Foster Care, as defined in 45 CFR 1355.20², who reached his or her 17th birthday in FFY 2011, or reaches age 17 in every third fiscal year following 2011. For example, youth in the Baseline Population will reach age 17 during FFY 2011, FFY 2014, FFY 2017, etc. The Baseline Population includes all 17 year-old youth who are in Foster Care or other out-of-home placement that are eligible to take the Iowa NYTD survey. A youth is considered to have participated at age 17 if he or she provided at least one valid answer to a question in the outcomes survey. A youth may not participate in the survey for various reasons including: not in sample; runaway/missing; unable to locate/invite; youth declined; youth incapacitated; youth incarcerated.

Follow-Up Population refers to a sample of 17 year-olds who participated as a part of the Baseline Population, who are identified for another outcome survey as they reach age 19 and 21, regardless of whether or not they remain in Foster Care or ever received Life Skills services. A youth is considered to have participated at age 17 if he or she provided at least one valid answer to a question in the outcomes survey.



¹<https://sites.google.com/a/iowa.gov/national-transition-youth-database-nytd/annual-report>

²<https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/45/1355.20>

Foster Care is defined in 45 CFR 1355.20 as a 24-hour substitute care for all children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the Department of Juvenile Court Services (JCS) has placement and care responsibility either through court order or voluntary agreement. This includes, but is not limited to, placements in foster family homes (whether the foster parents are relatives of or unrelated to the youth), group homes/residential facilities, shelter care and child care institutions (regardless of whether such homes or institutions are licensed, approved, or paid), emergency shelters, and preadoptive homes. This definition does not include placements in detention facilities, forestry camps, training schools, or any other facility operated primarily for the detention of children who are determined to be delinquent. The definition also excludes youth who are in the placement and care responsibility of a tribal agency unless the conditions specified above regarding title IV-E agreements apply.

Life Skills Services, also referred to as independent living services, are services paid for or provided by the Department of Human Services, intended to support a youth in Foster Care preparing for adulthood. Services are inclusive of those provided through a foster parent, contracted service provider, other public agency, etc..

National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) refers to a federal law which requires States to engage in two data collection activities. First, the State is to collect information on each youth who receives Life Skills Services paid for or provided by the State, and transmit this information to the ACF, biannually. Second, the State is to collect demographic and outcomes information on certain youth in Foster Care whom the State will follow over time to collect additional outcomes information. This information is also transmitted to the ACF biannually. Outcomes information collected includes educational attainment, financial self-sufficiency, access to health insurance, experience with homelessness, and positive connections with adults.

Data Sources

The Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) requires states to collect and report case-level information to the federal ACFS on all children in Foster Care and those who have been adopted with title IV-E agency involvement. Examples of data reported in AFCARS include demographic information on the foster child as well as the foster and adoptive parents, the number of removal episodes a child has experienced, the number of placements in the current removal episode, and the current placement setting. Title IV-E agencies are required to submit the AFCARS data twice a year based on two six month reporting periods.

Achieving Maximum Potential (AMP) is a DHS contracted Foster Care Youth Council for youth ages 13 through 20 who have been involved in foster care, adoption, or other out-of-home placements. Local councils organize and offer leadership opportunities, service learning projects, speaking opportunities, and educational/vocational assistance. AMP also provides the life skills youth need to become self-sufficient, independent adults. The purpose of AMP is to empower young people to become advocates for themselves and give them a voice in system-level improvements in child welfare policies and practices. Data pertaining to AMP can be found on page 18.

The National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) requires Iowa DHS to collect data regarding youth transitioning from Foster Care to adulthood. First, Iowa DHS collects information on each youth who receives Life Skills Services paid for or provided by either the DHS, or contracted service providers, and transmits this information to the ACF, biannually. Second, DHR collects demographic and outcomes information on certain youth in Foster Care whom the State will follow over time to collect additional outcome information. This information is also transmitted to the ACF biannually. All NYTD data provided in this report pertains to youth who participated at age 17 in FFY 2014, 19 in FFY 2016, and 21 in FFY 2018, and can be found on page 7.

The Iowa College Student Aid Commission (Iowa College Aid) serves as Iowa's higher education student financial aid agency, assisting Iowa students and families as they plan, prepare, and pay for education. Through its efforts, Iowa College Aid seeks to realize its vision that all Iowans can achieve education beyond high school. Iowa College Aid, under contract with DHS, administers the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Grant Program, which provides funding for housing and tuition of youth formerly in Iowa Foster Care, who are pursuing higher education at an accredited education institution. The 2018 Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) extends the eligibility to youth ages 14 to 26, but limits the youth's participation to five years total.

The Iowa Aftercare Services Network (IASN) is a DHS contracted service to serve young adults age 18 through 21 who have aged out of Foster Care and other court ordered placements. To assess its effectiveness, IASN tracks progress of participants in six key areas: education, employment, housing, health, life skills, and relationships. Results are reported annually to DHS. The Youth Policy Institute of Iowa (YPII)³ leads the quality assurance and evaluation efforts of the Network, working closely with IASN agencies and DHS to collect and analyze data, and report services outcomes. Annual Aftercare reports include trend information from intake interviews with youth when they first access Aftercare services; demographic and other characteristics of all participants served by Aftercare each year; and outcomes of participants who exit services during the year. Data pertaining to IASN can be found on page 16. Full Aftercare reports can be found on their website⁴.

³<http://www.ypii.org/>

⁴<http://www.iowaaftercare.org/ProgramResults.html>

An estimated **450** youth per year age out of the foster care system. As young people begin to transition from Foster Care to adulthood, they should have experiences that nurture their growth and independence. Youth in care are met with obstacles that can thwart a smooth transition. Survey results from the second cohort of NYTD, as well as other Chafee funded programs, and basic child welfare data, provide a statewide glimpse of how these youth are doing as they transition to adulthood.



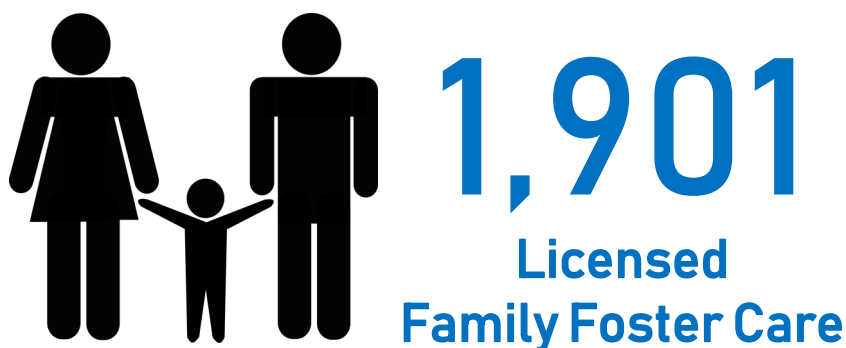
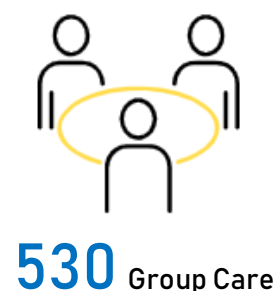
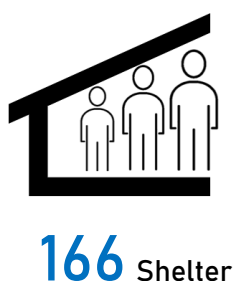
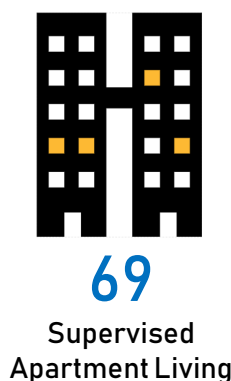
Foster Care

Foster Care is defined as 24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the State agency has placement and care responsibility.

This includes placements in foster family homes, foster homes of relatives, group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, child care institutions, and preadoptive homes.

However, the ideal place for children is with their families; thus, DHS strives to ensure children remain in their own homes whenever safely possible. In fact, 55% of children placed in foster care in SFY 2018⁵ were discharged due to reunification, with an additional 34% of children who were removed from their home in SFY 2018, placed in the care of an extended family member.

The following snapshot further displays the average number of youth served *per month* by Foster Care programs in SFY 2018.



National Youth In Transition Database



Public Law 106-169 established the Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (formerly the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program) at section 477 of the Social Security Act, providing States with flexible funding to carry out programs that assist youth age 14 or older in making the transition from Foster Care to self-sufficiency. The law also required the federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to develop a data collection system to track the independent living services States provide to youth and develop outcome measures that may be used to assess States' performance in operating their independent living programs.

The regulation to implement the law established the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD), which required states to engage in two data collection activities. First, in federal fiscal year (FFY) 2011⁶, states began to collect information on each youth who received Life Skills services during the year, which were paid for or provided by the state. Life Skills Services in Iowa include a range of services intended to help the youth in Foster Care age 14 and older, or alumni, learn life skills. These supports may be anything from contracted life skills for teens in Foster Care, to funding for books and tuition of a college student. Second, states are to collect demographic and outcome information on certain youth in Foster Care, and the states are expected to follow these youth over time to collect additional outcome information. In FFY 2011, Iowa DHS began to survey each youth in Foster Care who reached age 17. DHS then follows up with a sample of these youth within the reporting period of their 19th and 21st birthday, regardless of whether or not they are still in Foster Care or other out-of-home placement. States are required to repeat this process with a new Baseline population of 17 year-olds every three years.

More on the National Youth in Transition Database can be found on the Iowa NYTD website:

bit.ly/IowaNYTD

⁶Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2011=October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011

NYTD Outcomes Reported



DHS contracted with the Department of Human Rights (DHR) in 2016 to survey youth, track data, and create reports for the NYTD federal requirements. Specifically, DHR is contracted to collect and report outcomes information on youth who are or were in Foster Care or other out-of-home placement.

Iowa's current survey includes up to 24 questions that collect demographic information and measure youth outcomes across six domains:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Financial Self-Sufficiency | • Experience with Homelessness |
| • Educational Attainment | • High-Risk Behavior |
| • Positive Connections with Adults | • Access to Health Insurance |

The survey data must be collected directly from the youth (and not administrative records). Iowa offers three methods for completing the survey. The survey may be taken via phone, mail, or online:

- **Mail:** Return or request the paper copy, and return a completed survey in a business reply envelope.
- **Online:** Go to bit.ly/iowaNYTD, Click on 'Take the Survey', and then click on the respective survey option.
- **Phone:** Call the toll free hotline at 1-888-228-4912 or the NYTD Coordinator at 515-725-4050.

Most youth choose the phone option. All survey responses are voluntary, as youth have the option to decline a question, or the survey itself, at any time. Collected responses are always confidential, and are not connected to a specific youth. Completing the survey at Baseline or Follow-Up, regardless of format, earns them a gift card.

The following pages display NYTD survey results from the second cohort of youth at ages 17, 19 and 21. Specifically, this section includes the results of the surveys of Iowa's second cohort of NYTD Baseline youth—youth in the Baseline are those who reached age 17 in Foster Care during FFY 2014. Again, Baseline refers to the 394 youth in Foster Care who were surveyed at age 17, and the Follow-Up refers to a sample of those youth (259) who were surveyed again at age 19 (N=131) or 21 (N=128). Iowa is currently surveying the third Follow-Up Population of 19 year-old youth. This Follow-Up cohort will be complete no later than November 15, 2019.

Overall, the following data provides a statewide glimpse of how these young people are doing in certain outcome areas as they age.

Outcome 1: Positive Connections with Adults

- At age 17, 98% (N=388) of youth reported having at least one adult in their life, other than their caseworker, to whom they can go for advice and emotional support. By age 21, that percentage decreased to 87% (N=111).



Outcome area	Age 17 (N=394)	Age 19 (N=131)	Age 21 (N=128)
Has positive connection to an adult	98%	96%	87%

Outcome 2: Financial Self-Sufficiency

- At age 17, approximately 44% (N=172) reported experiences in at least one employment-related category (full-or part-time employment; paid or unpaid apprenticeship, internship, or other on-the-job training).
- By age 19, 60% (N=79) reported some employment-related experience, which increased from the 54% reported in the first cohort (FFY 2016).
- 52% (N=68) of 19 year-olds reported receiving public assistance.



Outcome area	Age 17 (N=394)	Age 19 (N=131)	Age 21 (N=128)
Employed full-time	1%	21%	34%
Employed part-time	17%	31%	26%
Receiving Employment related skills training	38%	22%	34%
Receiving Social Security	8%	11%	9%
Receiving educational aid	3%	14%	22%
Receiving other financial support	10%	20%	11%
Receiving public assistance (financial, food & housing)	N/A	52%	45%

Outcome 3: Access to Health Insurance



- 88% (N=345) of youth at age 17 reported having Medicaid insurance coverage. 8% (N=31), however, reported not knowing if they currently had Medicaid coverage.
- 2% of participating 17 year-olds (N=6), 13% of participating 19 year-olds (N=17), and 11% of participating 21 year-olds (N=14) reported not currently having Medicaid or some other health insurance.

Outcome area	Age 17 (N=394)	Age 19 (N=131)	Age 21 (N=128)
Has Medicaid	88%	67%	71%
Has health insurance other than Medicaid	13%	18%	29%

Outcome 4: Educational Attainment



- 35% (N=46) of 19 year-olds were enrolled in and attending some type of educational programming. Of these, 67% (N=31) reported having achieved a high school diploma or GED.
- By age 21, nearly 75% (N=96) had received a high school diploma or GED, and 7% (N=9) had received an associate's degree or vocational certificate.

Outcome area	Age 17 (N=394)	Age 19 (N=131)	Age 21 (N=128)
Received high school diploma or equivalency/GED	4%	76%	75%
Enrolled and attending an educational program	97%	35%	27%

Outcome 5: Experiences with Homelessness

- At age 17, 20% (N=77) had experienced homelessness at some point in their lifetime.
- 27% (N=34) of 21 year-olds reported having been homeless at some point within the past two years.
- At age 17, female youth comprised 44% (N=34) of youth who reported being homeless. By age 21, 53% (N=18) of the youth who reported having been homeless at some point in the past two years were female.



Outcome area

Homeless at some point

(in past two years for ages 19 and 21)

Age 17
(N=394)

20%
(in lifetime)

Age 19
(N=131)

23%

Age 21
(N=128)

27%

Outcome 6: High-Risk Outcomes

- 24% (N=31) of 19 year-olds reported experiencing confinement in a jail, prison, correctional facility, or juvenile or community detention facility within the last two years.
- More females than males reported having children. By age 21 specifically, 41% (N=27/65) of participating young women reported having given birth to a child within the past two years, while 13% (N=8/63) of participating young men reported fathering a child.



Outcome area

Referred for substance abuse assessment or counseling

(in past two years for ages 19 and 21)

Age 17
(N=394)

38%
(in lifetime)

Age 19
(N=131)

18%

Age 21
(N=128)

13%

Confined at some point*

(in past two years for ages 19 and 21)

*Confinement can include jail, prison, correctional facility, or juvenile detention

51%
(in lifetime)

24%

21%

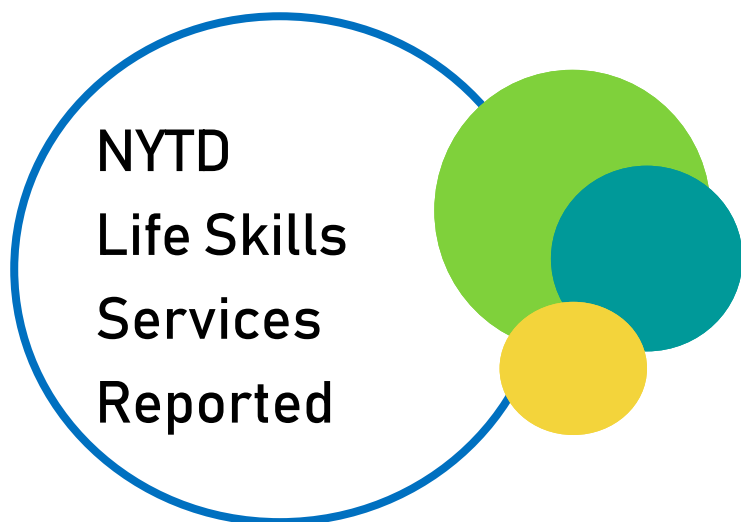
Had children

(in past two years for ages 19 and 21)

5%
(in lifetime)

10%

27%



States are required to deliver and report on Life Skills Services or financial assistance provided to youth within 11 broad service categories:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Independent Living Needs Assessment | 7. Housing Education and Home Management Training |
| 2. Academic Support | 8. Health Education and Risk Prevention |
| 3. Post-Secondary Educational Support | 9. Family Support and Healthy Marriage Education |
| 4. Career Preparation | 10. Mentoring |
| 5. Employment Programs or Vocational Training | 11. Supervised Independent Living |
| 6. Budget and Financial Management | |

The following data provides a statewide glimpse of the Life Skills Services provided by DHS to Foster Care youth age 14 and older in Iowa.

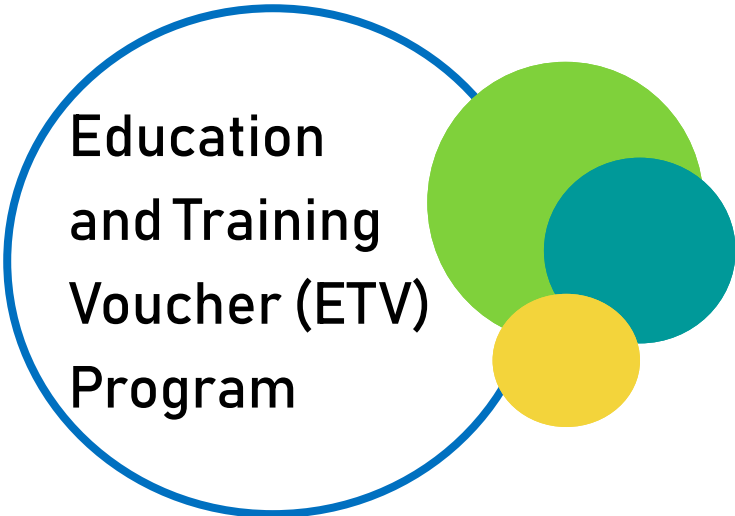
Life Skills Services Reported in FFY 2018

3,920

YOUTH AGE 14 AND OLDER
AND ALUMNI RECEIVED
A LIFE SKILL SERVICE IN FFY 2018

TYPES OF SERVICES RECEIVED





Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program

The Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) partners with the Iowa College Student Aid Commission (Iowa College Aid) to administer the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program. The ETV program in Iowa provides educational awards of up to \$5,000 per year to students who age out of Foster Care and students who are adopted after age 16 to help pay for tuition/fees, room/board, book/supplies, and personal/living expenses⁷.

Each year Iowa's ETV application is available online beginning on October 1 to coincide with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) release. Students must submit both a FAFSA and the Iowa Financial Aid Application annually with awards made until funds are expended. Students renewing their awards prior to March 1st receive priority consideration. Once all funds for a particular academic year are committed, a waiting list begins. Students enrolled less than full-time receive a prorated amount.

Former foster youth may also qualify for the All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship (AIOS). The State of Iowa funds this scholarship and it is available to students who have financial need and are attending an eligible Iowa college or university within two years of graduating high school. Students who self-identify as a current or former foster youth have first priority for the AIOS. This scholarship is renewable for four years as long as the student is enrolled continuously.

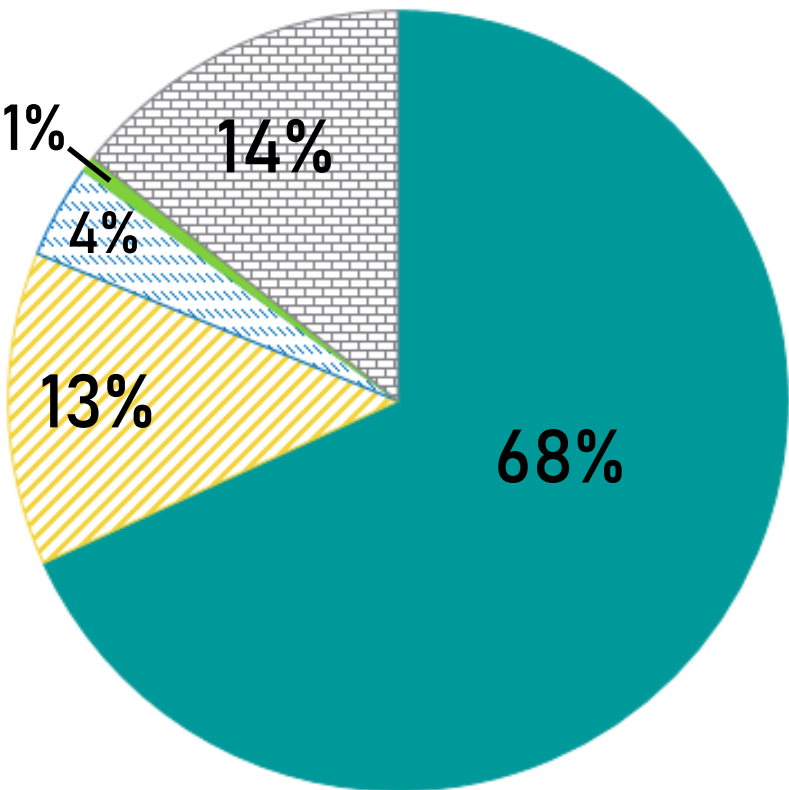
Although children and youth in Foster Care may experience challenges that adversely affect educational progress, some young people attending college through the ETV program reported that school was their solace, and that educational success became a pattern for them and a defining characteristic. Education supports and services for youth experiencing Foster Care create opportunities for improved outcomes, including educational and career attainment.

Collaboration between DHS and educators has improved information sharing and system level problem solving capacity, as their continued goal is to ensure all youth in Foster Care likely to be eligible for the ETV program are given information about the program. In fact, recent federal policies provide obligations for state agencies to use Foster Care and education data to better inform educators, child welfare, and the public.

The following section contains ETV data sourced from Iowa College Aid, which provides a more detailed look at the 2017–2018 academic school year.

⁷<https://www.iowacollegeaid.gov/ETV>

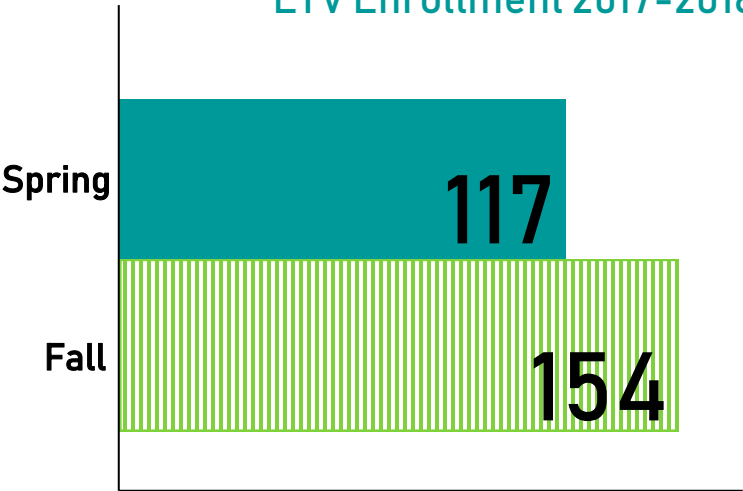
Higher Education at a Glance



- Community College
- Barber/Cosmetology School
- Out of State Colleges/Universities
- Regent Universities
- Independent Colleges/Universities

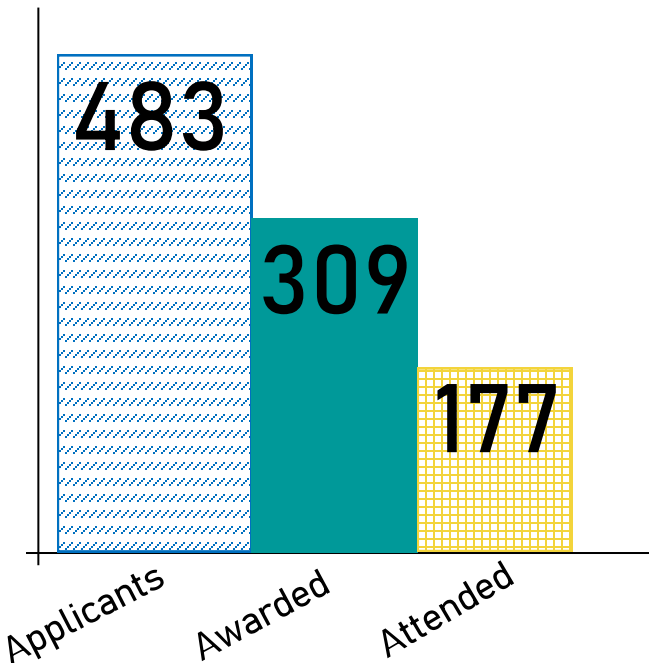
- The Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program is funded by the Federal Department of Health and Human Services to assist foster care alumni with expenses for post-secondary education and job training.
- Iowa College Aid administers the DHS funded ETV program.
- 154 ETV students in fall 2017 enrolled in a post-secondary education program.

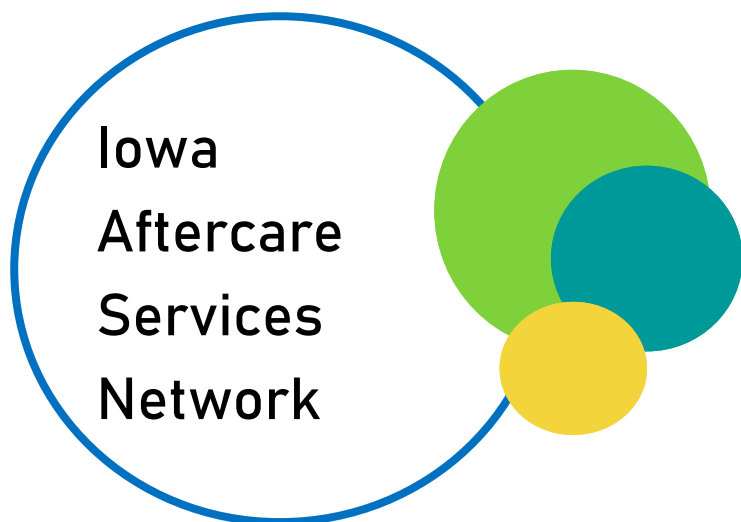
ETV Enrollment 2017-2018



- Fall 2017 enrollment is up 10% compared to the 140 ETV youth enrolled in a post-secondary education program in the fall of 2016.

ETV Application Cycle 2017-2018





DHS is committed to ensuring teens who exit the Foster Care system at or around age 18 are prepared for adulthood. Transition planning should begin well before the youth prepares to exit Foster Care in order to have a solid discharge plan when the time comes to leave Foster Care.

The Iowa Aftercare Services Program (Aftercare) is designed to help the youth see that plan through, even as the youth aging out Foster Care enters adulthood. The primary goal of Aftercare is for participants to achieve self-sufficiency, and ensure that they recognize and accept their personal responsibility to prepare for and transition from adolescence to adulthood. Aftercare services is a voluntary program to provide case management, life skills training, goal planning, and limited financial support for youth who have been placed out-of-home (due to family problems or delinquent behaviors), and who have been unable to return home before reaching the age of majority. These youth, referred to as youth aging out of the system, need help transitioning from out-of-home placement to their chosen adult living situation (e.g. college, apartment). Individualized plans are used to ensure the six life domains are addressed; including:

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------|-----------------|
| • Employment | • Health | • Life Skills |
| • Education | • Housing | • Relationships |

Through a contract with Youth and Shelter Services Inc. (YSS), seven youth-serving agencies deliver aftercare's developmentally appropriate support and services to eligible youth throughout the Iowa, and certain youth leaving the State Training School or court-ordered detention placements. Youth are also eligible if they exited Foster Care for a subsidized guardianship, or adoption, at age 16 or older. Services are available in all of Iowa's 99 counties when the youth is age 18 through 21. Eligible youth may apply or return for services until age 21.

Full Program Rules for Aftercare can be found in 441 Iowa Admin. Code Chapter 187⁸.

The following section contains outcome data sourced from the Iowa Aftercare report, developed primarily by Youth Policy Institute of Iowa (YPII). Collected for youth in Aftercare during the 2018 State Fiscal Year (SFY 2018), this data provides a glimpse into how youth who have exited Foster Care around the age of 18 are now being served by Iowa Aftercare Services.

⁸<http://www.iowaaftercare.org/PDF%20files/Iowa%20Administrative%20Rules.pdf>

Aftercare Services Provided To Youth In SFY 2018



798

YOUNG ADULTS

RECEIVED AFTERCARE SERVICES

251

ACCESSED SERVICES FOR
THE FIRST TIME IN SFY 2018

THE MEDIAN LAPSE BETWEEN EXIT FROM FOSTER CARE OR STS/DETENTION TO AFTERCARE INTAKE IS



13 DAYS



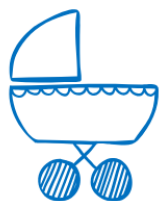
71% of youth who entered had a high school diploma or equivalent.

26% of new intakes were enrolled in high school or an equivalency program in SFY 2018.



92% of youth reported having Medicaid.

64% of youth reported having a primary care physician.



Among females, 18% reported having had an unintended pregnancy prior to accessing Aftercare.

5% of youth entered Aftercare as parents.



21% of youth reported having been referred for an alcohol or substance abuse assessment or counseling.

EXITED

87% of youth had earned at least a high school diploma or higher degree or certification upon exiting Aftercare.

95% of young people who exited Aftercare report having Medicaid.

99% of youth have health insurance when they exit Aftercare Services.

26% of youth are parenting upon exiting Aftercare. 75% of these youth have their children living with them.

43% of youth exiting Aftercare indicated that they use tobacco, 27% use alcohol to intoxication, and 22% use Marijuana, which is up 14% from the 8% reported in SFY 2016.

Achieving Maximum Potential (AMP)



AMP (Achieving Maximum Potential) is Iowa's Foster Care Youth Council. Contracted through DHS, AMP helps further achieve their goal of ensuring teens who exit the Foster Care system are prepared for adulthood. The primary goal of AMP is to empower current and former Foster Care youth, adoptive youth, and youth who have been involved in other out-of-home placements, aged 13 through 20, to utilize self-advocacy skills, and know that they can have a voice in system-level improvements in the child welfare policies and practices. Through supportive, productive partnerships with adults, youth are authoritative advocates for making Foster Care more responsive and effective. Specifically, AMP offers youth the following :

- Leadership Opportunities;
- Service Learning Projects;
- Speaking Opportunities;
- Educational/Vocational Assistance;
- Opportunities to Learn Various Life Skills;
- Resources for Transition from Foster Care to Adulthood; and
- More!

AMP allows youth to participate in normal adolescent activities with their peers in a safe and supportive environment. Members of AMP also encourage others to open their homes to teens in Foster Care or to adopt, and educate legislators, child welfare professionals, juvenile court representatives, foster parents, and the public about foster care and adoption from a youth perspective.

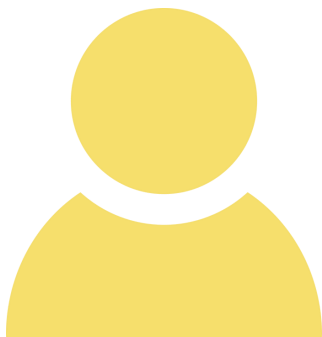
The Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) is the primary grant funder for AMP. Youth and Shelter Services Inc. (YSS) subcontracts with eight, non-profit youth-serving agencies to make up the Partnership of Iowa Foster Care Youth Councils, which provide AMP Youth Councils to fourteen locations across the state. Donations, grants, and local community supports help supplement local youth AMP councils. AMP also partners with other agencies such as ISU –RISE (Research Institute for Studies in Education) to conduct program assessments; the Child and Family Policy Center (CFPC) to help with legislative advocacy; the Youth Policy Institute of Iowa (YPII) for data collection and reporting assistance; and many other child serving networks.

For more information on AMP, visit their website:

www.ampiowa.org/en/who_we_are/

The following section contains outcome data sourced from AMP's yearly SFY 2018 report, developed primarily by YPII. The selected data specifically provides a glimpse into the membership and activities of AMP during the 2018 State Fiscal Year.

AMP Membership Characteristics for SFY 2018



1,300

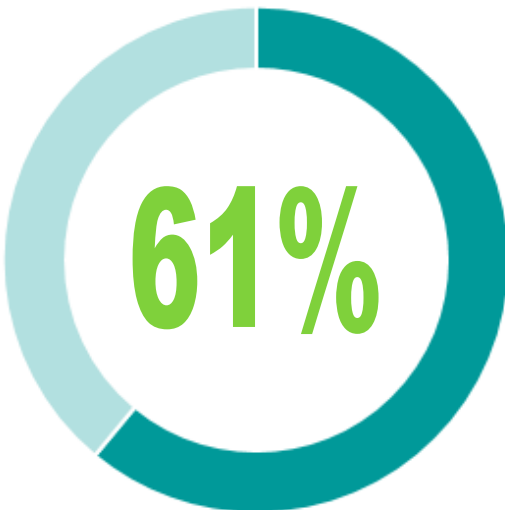
Attended One or More
AMP Meetings

42%

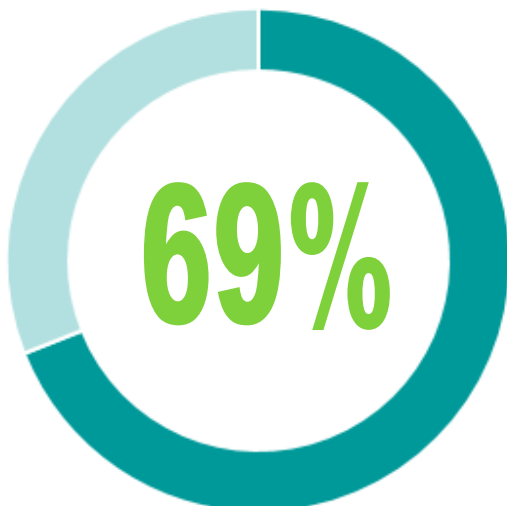
Became AMP Members



OF MEMBERS
ARE 14 OR YOUNGER



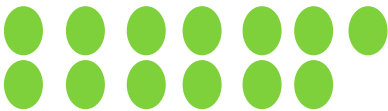
OF MEMBERS
ARE MALE



OF MEMBERS
LIVE IN A CONGREGATE
CARE SETTING

DEMOGRAPHICS OF MEMBERS

65%
WHITE



20%
AFRICAN-AMERICAN



11%
HISPANIC



7%
MULTIRACIAL



= 5 Percent (%)

According to AMP's Youth Satisfaction Survey, over 80% of youth agree or somewhat agree that *because of AMP*, they have positive relationships with peers (86%) and have developed skills for later in life (88%).



Considerations & Updates

The Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP) and the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) are proud to release the FFY 2018 Foster Care to Adulthood in Iowa Report as of December 12, 2018. On January 16, 2019, CJJP and DHS will host a webinar to officially release the report.

Note of Report Release:
December 12, 2018

Webinar:
January 16, 2019

Webinar Available Upon Request:
February 1, 2019

An update on this report, including community response, will be included in the 2019 Annual Performance and Services Report (APSR)⁹. Feedback on the FFY 2018 Report will also be collected and used to improve the quality for the next release.

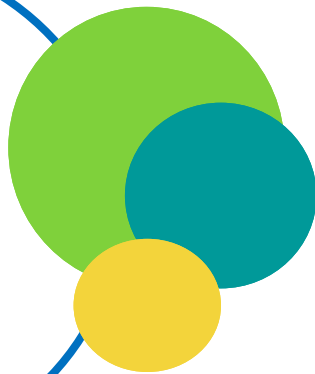
Considerations:

- Data in this report may benefit DHS efforts to implement the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), and should be reviewed by those implementing the change.
- Transition Planning Specialists, in their role as DHS transition planning practice champions, will review this report to identify areas of need and recommend casework practice changes accordingly.
- Data will be used to inform training of DHS and Juvenile Court Services (JCS) staff.
- Utilize the Summary Report provided during future meetings this upcoming year.

Updates:

- The John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program has been renamed as the Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood.
- The 2018 Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) extended the ETV eligibility upper age to 26, but limits the youth's participation to five years total.
- CJJP and the following partners, Iowa NYTD, AMP, the Iowa State Training School (STS), the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), and Iowa Workforce Development (IWD), produced seven videos and a resources webpage designed to help assist youth who are transitioning into adulthood. The videos and additional resources can be found at bit.ly/IAYouthResources.

Learn More



For additional information and to learn more about the topics presented in this report, visit the Iowa Foster Care Transition web page at <http://dhs.iowa.gov/transitioning-to-adulthood>, or contact Iowa's Independent Living Coordinator:

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Iowa Dept. of Human Services
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